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GOVERNOR




STATE OF HAWAII
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IN REPLY REFER TO:
HWY- CE 2.1597

January 29, 2016

TO: THOMAS K. MATSUDA
PESTICIDE PROGRAM MANAGER
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FROM: 
RAYMOND J. MCCORMICK
HIGHWAYS ADMINISTRATOR

SUBJECT: WARNING NOTICE, VIOLATION OF CHAPTER 149A OF THE HAWAII
REVISED STATUTES, HAWAII PESTICIDES LAW

We acknowledge receipt of the subject Warning Notice dated November 19, 2015. The Warning Notice states that Hawaii Department of Agriculture (HDOA) inspectors noted violations of the Hawaii Pesticide Law, Chapter 149A, Hawaii Revised Statutes, during two inspections conducted by HDOA personnel on May 27, 2008 and July 2, 2009.

In response to the notice, the Hawaii Department of Transportation, Highways Division (Highways Division) would like to affirm our commitment to the proper application of pesticides. We would also like to note that the Highways Division employs other methods to address vegetation overgrowth along the state highway system. These methods include, but are not limited to, the mechanical removal of vegetation by means of mowing, edging, and pruning. It is a combination of these various methods that allow the Highways Division to properly manage the roadside vegetation which is essential in providing safe and efficient thoroughfares for Hawaii's motorists.

We would also like to thank you for meeting with us on October 16, 2015, regarding the use of pesticides. Based on the discussion in our meeting, we understand that the HDOA is able to provide training to pesticide users. With your assistance, we would like to coordinate such training for our highways' personnel that are responsible for pesticide application. Additional training is a priority action and we will contact your department's Environmental Health Specialists for scheduling availability.

If you have any questions or other concerns, please call me at (808) 587-2220 or Ms. Sharon Nekoba of the Construction and Maintenance Branch at (808) 587-2187.